

## HOLSINGERISMS.

Since writing my last letter to the EVANGELIST I have done a little visiting, of which I wish to make some notes. First I stopped with Brother Lyon, at Washington City. Bro. Lyon is a late acquisition to the Brethren Church. Several years ago the German Baptist church established a mission at Washington, and four or five years ago Bro. Lyon became its pastor. The work grew slowly but steadily under his care. The mission was supported by the church at large, but was under the oversight of the adjoining congregations or their elders. As far as I could learn there was harmony between the churches and the mission in everything except upon the dress question. Bro. Lyon found it impracticable, if not impossible, to enforce the rules of the church in this particular, and eventually lost faith in the necessity of doing so. And so he resigned, and with a number of other members, transferred their membership to the Brethren Church, some time last summer, under the administration of Brother Bowman, of Philadelphia. Then a committee of elders visited the mission (I believe sent by Annual Meeting of the German Baptist church,) and finished up the business by drawing the lines. Bro. Lyon having been there first, and being established, held the mission and the hall and the appointments, and continued his work without interruption in the name of the Brethren Church, and so still continues to do. A communion has been held since the division, when most of the members of the mission were present. I stopped with them again on my return and so attended two prayer-meetings, and can say I believe that pastor and people are trying to serve the Lord faithfully, according to his word. Bro. Lyon is sound in the faith and very zealous for the doctrine of the Gospel of Christ, and both he and his wife are indefatigable workers in the church. I hope the Brethren Church will sustain the mission. Immediate help should be given it.

Next I stopped at Philadelphia. I made my home at Bro. J. C. Cassel's, where I received every comfort that a home can afford. Bro. Bowman was in the midst of a revival effort, so I had a good opportunity of hearing him in that line of work in which he has been so successful. Earnestness is undoubtedly the key to his success. His methods are about the same as are generally used in the church. Baptism was administered in the pool of the church one evening.

I also attended services at the German Baptist church on Sunday afternoon. Bro. T. T. Meyers is the pastor. He is a Somerset county "boy," whom we knew

in childhood, and is a minister of some prominence in his denomination and has traveled to Europe and the Holy Land. He extended all the brotherly courtesies to me, but I could do but little for him. They have a very good church building and very conveniently arranged. My old friends, brethren I. G. Harley and John L. Fry, showed me through the building. Here I met Bro. Geo. L. McDonough and wife, of California, but only to exchange greetings. Wish we could have had an interview.

My next visit was to Bro. A. H. Cassel's, Harleysville, Pa., my destination. Brother Abram was in the city on a visit and became my guide. Bro. J. C. also accompanied me, to be "mouth and ear" to us—Bro. Abram being defective in hearing and I in speech. We went to Harleysville on the afternoon of election day.

## THE CASSEL LIBRARY.

We thought we had seen the Cassel library at Mount Morris College, but with what was reserved and what has been added since, there is still a wonderful collection in possession of the old antiquarian of Harleysville. There are books by the thousands, hundreds of years old, and from that time "up to date." There are weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual periodicals, religious and secular. There are manuscripts, written in the eighteenth century, on religious, political and scientific subjects, which are almost sacred because of their age and importance. There are pamphlets containing the inaugural addresses of the first Presidents of the United States, and other important State occasions, etc., etc. There is a complete set of Saur's Almanac, all arranged in systematical order to the convenience of the owner. And now I am going to say something which may astonish my readers as it did me. Bro. Cassel appears to know something about all there is in all this conglomerate mass of reading matter, and just where to look for what he does not know or remember at the time. He is not only an authority in matters pertaining to the history of the Dunkard church, but of all other denominations and religious movements, and in politics, literature, the arts and sciences. I could not ask a question that even appeared to be hard to answer. I went there to secure data for my forthcoming history of the Dunkards and the Brethren Church, and I can assure my readers that I succeeded. I regret, however, that I am not in such proximity to Bro. Cassel that I could visit his library occasionally when I meet a dark point in our history. I received from him and his kind family

much kindness, for which I am very grateful.

We returned to Philadelphia on Saturday after the election. On Sunday afternoon I attended the corner-stone laying of the Memorial Chapel adjoining the old Germantown Dunkard church. Something has been said in regard to this building through the EVANGELIST heretofore. It is now a matter of history. It came about in the following manner: A man by the name of Jacob Z. Davis, a descendant of Alexander Mack, a wealthy citizen of San Francisco, Calif., being charitably disposed, and with a view of perpetuating his own memory, desired to erect a Memorial Chapel on the old Dunkard graveyard at Germantown, Pa. He placed himself in communication with the proper parties at Germantown, and in due time an understanding was obtained between all the parties concerned. As the old house afforded accommodations for all who wished to worship there, an effort was made to induce Mr. Davis to donate his money to a church extension fund, but he did not care to invest in that line of work. So he placed \$8,000 in a bank to the credit of the church people, and the work of building was commenced. And it was the corner stone laying service of this edifice that I had the pleasure of witnessing and participating in to some extent at least. The plans and specifications were made so as to keep within the bounds of the Davis donation, but Bro. Falkenstrin, the pastor of the church, thinks it will likely exceed it by several hundred dollars. The new building overlaps the old in the rear, projecting about fifteen feet, far enough for a side entrance into the new house, at which corner is the memorial stone. It had placed in it the usual mementos. It is remarkable that Mr. Davis, the benefactor of this enterprise, did not live to see even this first service. He had come to Philadelphia, possibly with a view of participating in the occasion, and died at the Continental hotel the week before while I was in the city. His body was cremated, according to his own directions, and the ashes will be buried with those of his wife from California in the Germantown Dunkard graveyard. He might as well have made his donation much larger and included many other and better enterprises, as I notice in a late San Francisco paper that his will is to be contested by would-be heirs for the remainder of his estate, estimated at \$2,500,000.

I visited while in the city Bro. Bowmans, H. C. Cassel, the Kolb family and Sister Geiger. The state of my health did not admit of sight-seeing or "doing" of the city. I returned stronger than when I